

## **Purpose**

This athletic information is designed to give an overview, explain and inform athletes and their parents or guardians of the rules, regulations, policies and general guidelines relative to participation in interscholastic athletics in Warren County Schools. The individual schools operate their programs under these general guidelines and tailor their policies for participation at their particular school.

Participation in any Warren County Public Schools athletic program is a privilege, not a right. Upon making the decision to participate, student athletes and parents must be prepared to make commitments. In addition, participation requires student athletes and their parent to accept and abide by the policies and procedures detailed in this handbook as well as the rules and codes for all students of their respective school.

## **To The Parent**

When your son/daughter becomes involved in one of our sports programs, he/she has committed to certain responsibilities and obligations. Likewise, you as a parent have made the same commitment. Here are positive ways parents can be involved to help and support their schools athletic programs.

1. Support and cheer the TEAM.
2. Support the coach and coaching staff.
3. Be involved in the Booster Club.
4. Provide positive feedback to your child.

5. Provide positive feedback about the coaching staff.
6. Bring any questions or concerns to the coach first.
7. Display sportsmanship at all times.
8. Purchase season passes.
9. Support your school in our community.

### **To The Athlete**

Being a member of your School's athletic team is the fulfillment of an early ambition for many students. The attainment of this goal carries with it certain traditions and responsibilities that must be maintained. A great athletic tradition is not built overnight, it takes the dedication and hard work of many people over many years. The Warren County Public Schools tradition (at any school) has been to win with honor. We desire to win, but not at all cost. If you lose and have given your all, have dignity to hold your head high and be proud of the effort you have given.

When you wear the 'colors' of your school, we assume that you not only understand their traditions, but are willing to assume the **responsibilities** that go with them.

**Responsibility to Yourself:** The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and strengthen your character. You owe it to yourself to make the most of the opportunity that has been given to you. Your academic studies, your participation in other extracurricular activities as well as in sports, prepare you for life.

**Responsibility to Your School:** Your school cannot maintain its high standards of an outstanding school unless you do your best. By participating in athletics to the greatest of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school. The student body and community know you and judge your school by your behavior and conduct, both on and off the field. Because of this, you can contribute tremendously to school spirit and community pride.

The contributions you make will be a satisfying accomplishment to you and your family.

### **KHSAA**

The Warren County Public Schools are voluntary members of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association and compete only with member schools and schools from other states who belong to their state organization. As member schools, we agree to abide by and enforce all rules and regulations made by this association. The following are a few of the primary rules and regulations that all schools follow. The handbook may be accessed at [www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org).

### **Requirements for Participation**

1. **Physical Examination:** A yearly physical exam is required. The physical form provided by the KHSAA must be completed by a physician and submitted to the coach prior to participation. The physical covers all sports for the entire school year. The form will be kept on file with the coach and in the school's Athletic Director's office.

2. **Insurance**: All athletes in Warren County Public Schools must be covered by insurance as directed by the KHSAA.
3. **Parental Consent Form**: All athletes in Warren County Public Schools must have a permission form signed by their parents allowing them to participate. Parents acknowledge that there are inherent risks when participating in interscholastic athletic events (practices and games).
4. **Scholastic Eligibility**: On the first day of each school year, a student must be at his/her proper grade level, a student must have been enrolled during the previous grading period, and must be on schedule to graduate on the first day of school. On a weekly basis, a student shall also be passing (cumulative for the credit period) in at least four hours of instruction as defined by the Kentucky Board of Education regulations (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable for graduation in order to be eligible to participate in athletics during the subsequent week (Monday through Sunday) and through the next opportunity to examine grades in this manner.
5. **Athletes Code of Conduct**: Athletes [by participating] agree to conduct themselves in a respectful manner in the classroom, in practice, and during contests. The athletes are representing their team as well as their school and are held to a higher standard of conduct for his/her behavior and actions. In addition, all athletes who present problems in the classroom, at practice, or during

contests will be subject to disciplinary actions imposed by their coaches and /or the administrative staff at the respective school.

### **Coaches' Education/ Training Requirements**

In accordance with the KHSAA regulation, Bylaw 27, all coaches shall fulfill specific training requirements as follows (appendix KHSAA Bylaw 27).

**KHSAA Rules Clinics** – **ANNUALLY** - All 'Head Varsity' coaches are required to attend at least one rules interpretation clinic conducted by the representatives of the KHSAA in the sport in which they coach.

**CPR training** – **ALL** coaches shall provide documentation of successful completion of a CPR course – including the use of AED (automatic external defibrillator) and the requisite First Aid training. Initial certification shall use in person instruction and certification will be timely updated as required by the approving agency.

**Medical Symposiums** – All 'head coaches' will attend a Sports Medical Symposium sanctioned by the KHSAA every TWO years. \*\* Becoming part of the Sports Safety Course and **ALL** coaches will do.

**Sports Safety Course** – **ALL** coaches will complete the sports safety course through the KHSAA. Each coach will re-certify by taking the course not less than once every two (2) years. This course will be

completed PRIOR to assuming any coaching duties.

**Kentucky Coaches Education Program** – ALL coaches must complete within one year of assignment to coaching duties.

### **Athletic Department Policies**

**1. Athletic Participation:** A student who is a member of a 'team' will remain a member of the team until the end of the specified season – unless dismissed for violations. If a student-athlete decides to 'quit' a team during the season, they are 'ineligible' to participate in another sport until the end of the season – of the team they left.

**-Example:** Student A plays basketball. Student A decides to 'quit' at the beginning of January. Student A also participates in spring sports (baseball/softball/track). They would be 'eligible' to take part in any 'open gyms' – weights' etc. until February 15 (official beginning of spring sports). ***Upon the beginning of the 'season' they become ineligible to be part of team until the official end of the season of the team they left.***

**Sports seasons are defined in the KHSAA handbook ([www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org))**

**Exceptions:** If the Head coaches of the sports involved agree – after meeting the student and parent, **they could recommend to the Athletic Director** that the student-athlete be allowed to participate fully. The Athletic Director (with consultation with School Administration)

will determine whether or not to allow full participation.

**Note: Warren County School Board Policy 09.31 notes the following 'restrictions'.**

Practice sessions for elementary school athletic teams shall not exceed one-hundred and twenty (120) minutes.

A student enrolled below the ninth grade may, with parental consent, participate as a member of a high school athletic team under the following conditions:

- a. The student shall not be eligible to represent any other district school in that sport for the remainder of the school year.
- b. The student shall not participate in high school try-outs or practices during the school instructional day, but shall be permitted to leave early when the high school team being represented plays an away game.

**2. Equipment:** School equipment checked out by the student-athlete is her/her responsibility. He/she is expected to keep it clean and in good condition. Loss or damage of any equipment is the athlete's financial obligation.

**3. Missing Practice:** An athlete should always consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a game without good reason will be dealt with as a serious violation and handled accordingly by the coach.

- 4. Travel:** All athletes must travel to and from away contests in transportation provided by the athletic department unless previous arrangements are made by the parents for exceptional situations. Athletes will remain with their team and under the supervision of the coach when attending away contests. Athletes who miss the bus will not be allowed to participate in the contest unless there are extenuating circumstances.
- 5. School Attendance:** Athletes who miss part of the school day due to illness must be in attendance equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a school day in order to play in a contest or practice on that date. Athletes missing school for reasons other than illness must have an excused absence in order to participate. Students absent from school on Friday with a contest the following day (Saturday) will be eligible to participate provided the absence is an excused absence. Final authority for infractions of these rules will rest with the School Principal.
- 6. Dress Policy:** The School dress code policy is expected to be followed by athletes during school hours and on the field of play. Appearance can influence people's opinions of athletes, the team and the school. The Warren County Public Schools maintain high expectations and standards for our athletes.
- 7. Injuries:** All injuries which occur while participating in athletics should be reported to the trainer/coach. All injuries reported must have an injury report form



completed. Once athletes are treated by a physician, the athlete must obtain the doctor's permission to return to the activity.

### **Information for the College Bound Student-Athlete**

In order to participate in athletics and receive athletically based financial aid, you must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse and meet eligibility standards. The web site is [www.eligibility.org](http://www.eligibility.org). If you have questions about NCAA eligibility, please call the NCAA initial-eligibility clearinghouse toll-free at 877/262-1492. There is a fee for registering online. If you received a fee waiver for the ACT or SAT exam, you may request a fee waiver by completing the form available from the counselors or clearinghouse.

### **Code of Ethics – Athletic Programs**

The Athletic Administration of Warren County Public Schools will:

Develop and maintain a comprehensive athletic program which seeks the highest development of all participants, and which respects the individual dignity of every athlete.

Consider the well-being of the entire student body as fundamental in all decisions and actions.

Support the principle of due process and protect the civil and human rights of all individuals.

Organize, direct and promote an interscholastic athletic program that is an integral part of the total educational

program.

Cooperate with the staff and school administration in establishing, implementing and supporting school/district policies.

Act impartially in the execution of basic policies and the enforcement of the KHSAA rules and regulations.

Fulfill professional responsibilities with honesty and integrity.

Uphold the honor of the profession in all relations with students, colleagues, coaches, administrators, and the general public.

Improve the professional status and effectiveness of the interscholastic athletic administrator through participation in local, state and national in-service programs.

Promote high standards of ethics, sportsmanship, and personal conduct by encouraging administration, coaches, staff, student-athletes and community to commit to these high standards.

### **Expectations/Responsibilities of Coaches**

Coaches are **asked** and **expected** to be all-around good role models. Coaches in Warren County are expected to know and abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Warren County Board of Education and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA).

All coaches are expected to work in harmony with the school faculty and administration. It is the obligation of all coaches to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times when in contact with the public. Any concern that a coach has regarding his/her program, the athletic program in general, or any academic matter should express his/her concern through normal athletic and school channels. Coaches should at all times maintain a positive, supportive and enthusiastic attitude about school matters when dealing with the public.

***The Principal of each Warren County High School is totally responsible for the Athletic Policy within the school. He/She delegates authority to the Athletic Director to ensure that the athletic program meets all the requirements of the Warren County Public Schools and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.***

***The Middle Schools and Elementary schools (while not governed by the KHSAA) follow the rules and regulations of the Warren County Public Schools.***

The above information is presented to give everyone an overview of the Athletic programs in Warren County Public Schools. If you should have questions, concerns or suggestions to improve the programs, please contact the Principal of your student's school.